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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Masaru DEGUCHI

Appln. No. 10/046,095

Confirmation No.: 2414

Filed: January 16, 2002

For: EARTH CONNECTION STRUCTURE, EARTH CONNECTING MEMBER AND
EARTH CONNECTION METHOD

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

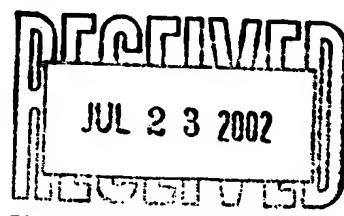
Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby
notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached
PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) (substitute for PTO Form 1449) form and/or listed herein and
which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified
application.

1. European Patent Application No. 1 014 774 A2, published June 28, 2000.
2. European Patent Application No. 0 954 067 A2, published November 3, 1999.
3. European Patent Application No. 0 678 830 A1, published October 25, 1995.
4. WO 96/31919, published October 10, 1996.
5. Japanese Patent Publication No. 2-250276, published October 8, 1990, with English
Abstract.
6. U.S. Patent No. 4,823,235, issued April 18, 1989 to Suzuki et al.

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M. DEGUCHI
Appln. No. 10/046,095
Information Disclosure Statement



One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date for an application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA) under §1.53(d); (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature of J. Frank Osha.

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